



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

GENERAL BULLETIN

Nº 2023.1 | MARCH - CHEVALIER YEAR



@ametur_msc



www.ametur-msc.org



fb.com/ameturmsc

Dear brothers, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, formands and members of the Chevalier Family,

It has been a few months since our last General Bulletin. Since those last events we shared with you in December, a lot has been happening in our Congregation, especially because of the preparation for our 26th General Chapter which, as you all know, will be held next September near Rome.

One of the preparatory stages for the General Chapter are the Provincial and Union Chapters. In this issue of our Bulletin you will find some news about the various Chapters, Assemblies and Retreats that have taken place during this time. We also extend a special greeting to the provincials who were elected or re-elected during these last months and wish them the strength of the charism of our Congregation so that they may be leaders according to the Heart of Jesus.

We will also take advantage of this communication to update you all on the work of the General Chapter, so that not only the delegates, but the entire Congregation can follow with enthusiasm this important event in our journey from ego to eco.

This year 2023 will also be marked by the Jubilee of the Founder. In March 2024 we will celebrate 200 years since the birth of Father Jules

Chevalier and to help the Chevalier Family prepare and celebrate this feast, a Commission has been created for this purpose. The Commission is composed of two MSC priests, one layman, one OLSH sister and one MSC sister. Since December they have been working to provide us with material and inspiration to make it a year that encourages us

to live our mission in the world better. As Sister Marife (Superior General of the FDNSSC) said in the first letter sent to the whole Chevalier Family: "May this year of preparation for the Feast be a time of grace, a time to walk together as brothers and sisters, with the collaborators of our works and ministries, in the

mission with the people of God."

As you all already know, we always carry a lead article in this Bulletin. So we have decided to give a gift to our readers by bringing an article on our Founder in each issue of the General Bulletin until the feast of 200 years in 2024. So we ask you to take the time to read and deepen your knowledge of Father Jules Chevalier.

Finally, I ask you to kindly share with us photos and articles of the Jubilee celebrations in each entity, country, region, so that we may be connected in the same spirit and in the same intention.

We wish you all an excellent reading!

| Humberto Henriques, MSC



ACCOMPANIMENT

"He has put his Spirit in our hearts" (2 Cor 1:22)

Chapter of Rio de Janeiro Province

In the MSC Constitutions number 13 we read: "The spirit of our Congregation is a spirit of love and kindness, of humility and simplicity. [...] a spirit of love for justice and concern for all, especially the poorest". It was with the desire to renew this spirit that we celebrated the 3rd. Chapter of the Province of Rio de Janeiro from 2 to 6 January 2023 in Juiz de Fora/MG, Brazil.

The Chapter was opened with a message from the Provincial Superior, Father Ronnie Anderson Diniz, who presented the theme "Discernment for Mission" and invited us to be open and docile to the Spirit who animates prophecy and makes us co-responsible for the Congregation wherever we are. After the call of the 33 capitular members and the welcome to all present, the sessions proceeded in an atmosphere of prayer, openness and fraternity.

The Superior General, Fr. Mario Abzalón, was present, helping in the community discernment. He motivated those present to think about the realisations, opportunities, challenges and personal and community hopes, showing the importance of each individual placing himself with harmony and depth in the Chapter. Inspired by the biblical text of the "disciples of Emmaus" (cf. Lk 24:13-35), he exhorted the group to live synodality, building the journey together, opening themselves to new missionary possibilities, generating life for the Congregation and for all those to whom the Mission

is addressed.

Among the themes discussed in the sessions, the reading, discussion, revision and voting on the Statutes of the Province and of the Triennial Community Project were highlighted. This was an opportune time to reflect on the pastoral practices, missions assumed by the group, community life and the economic organisation of the Province. Also on the agenda were the topics sent by the Generalate with the aim of including everyone in the preparation of the General Chapter. Finally, José Adriano and Pedro Henrique renewed their temporary vows and the group elected Fr. Daniel Martins as delegate for the General Chapter.

Huberto Van der Tog, our senior confrere, made the closing motion. A symbolic gesture that recalled the origin of our Province, built on the sending out of the Dutch MSC, their witness and love for the mission.

May Our Lady of the Sacred Heart help us to put into practice the inspirations of this Chapter, so that we may live, like Father Chevalier, open to what the Spirit of Jesus infuses into our hearts.

| *Washington Pablo, MSC*
(Province of Rio de Janeiro)



Assembly and Chapter of São Paulo Province

From 9 to 12 January 2023, the Province of São Paulo met for its Elective Assembly, which took place at the Sacred Heart Retreat House, in São Paulo city, SP.



Abzalón Alvarado, our Superior General, was present and was the facilitator of the Assembly. The occasion gave our group the opportunity to evaluate its journey during the last six years in which Fr. Edvaldo Rosa de Mendonça led the Province as Provincial Superior.

On the first day, with the help of Fr. Absalon, we were invited to broaden our gaze and move from "ego" to "eco", that is, to consider our province in the context of the worldwide Congregation. Our province cannot be understood as a separate entity, but as a member of a larger body.

And this larger body, which is the Congregation, cannot be thought of in isolation from the Mystical Body of Christ, which is the Church. Everything is synodally interconnected.

During the following days, each provincial councillor was able to present the work he had led in the commissions ("specific councils") for which he was responsible. In fact, each area of the MSC mission in our province is led by a "Specific Council" (Communication, JPIC, Formation, Spirituality, Educational Ministry) and each councillor leads one or two of these commissions.

The Provincial and the Bursar also presented their reports. On Thursday 12th we started our election process. In the morning we were able to make a synthesis of all that we had experienced in

the previous days and we prepared ourselves for the election itself, which took place in the afternoon.

Elected were Fr. Luís Carlos Araújo Moraes as provincial superior and Frs. Girley de Oliveira Reis (vice provincial), Benedito Angelo Cortez, Lucemir Alves Ribeiro and Sergio de Jesus Azevedo as councillors.

After many years of electing the leadership team in chapter, the Province of São Paulo has now made this new experience of election in assembly, in which all perpetual vowed members vote and the temporary vowed members elect a delegate to represent them.

In order to elect a delegate for the General Chapter of 2023, the Provincial Chapter was held on 13 March. Fr. José Eduardo Paixão was elected as delegate for this task.

We thank God and the confreres who have finished their service in the leadership team and wish all the best to the confreres who now assume this challenging leadership mission.

| *Fernando Clemente, MSC*
(Province of São Paulo)

ACCOMPANIMENT

ASSEMBLY AND CHAPTER OF THE CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO PROVINCE



In the afternoon and evening of January 9, 2023, we arrived at the La Santísima Trinidad Retreat House in the Cuscatlán department of El Salvador. The MSC who currently serve in the countries of our Province: Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and also our host brothers from El Salvador met again, this time to celebrate our Assembly and Provincial Chapter.

The next morning, we were in the session room, a total of 25 people, including our two special guests: Humberto Henriques, General Councilor, and the young Cristhian David Mancuello Arias, a Paraguayan MSC who recently completed his initial formation at the Latin American Theologate. msc.

Humberto connects with the group and gives us the greetings of the brothers of the General Administration and little by little he releases the contents of Theory U and the ideas of Brian Gallagher, from his book "Communal Wisdom, a way of discerning for a pilgrim church". The General Administration has chosen this theoretical framework which is enabling us to carry out interesting rereadings of our reality and of all the richness of our Charism, Spirituality and Mission. Some ideas resonate with us:

- We need to build a WE, move from I to We.

- The Spirit summons us to unity and solidarity.
- Everything is connected, but we continue to act in a disconnected way.
- What type of system does our province choose to be?
- We are being asked for a paradigm shift, especially from a clerical church to a more synodal church.
- We are building a synodal church that walks together. To enter into this process, three key words cannot be forgotten: communion, participation, mission.

After explaining the methodology of communal discernment, we do groupwork and observe the methodological steps with the purpose of making this methodology our own and replicating it in our countries. Sharing becomes very enriching and we are experiencing the joy of meeting, finding new challenges for each of our local communities and for each of the members.

In this Assembly we took the time to listen to each one of the reports from the communities of the Province and those in charge of JPIC, of Vocational Ministry and little by little the positive and negative aspects and the best possibilities for the future appear. Humberto's exposition on the compass of the

Province helps us a lot and applying the theory of the U makes us understand our Spirituality from a process-oriented approach. We are reminded that we are invited to meet Jesus, to enter into intimacy, to start a conversion process and to an active and creative awakening in the mission.

Our Provincial Assembly also expressed itself on each of the points that will be addressed in the next General Chapter to be held in Rome, in september of this year. On the last day, we had our Provincial Chapter, where we elected Fr. Jairo Sevilla Mendoza as delegate to the General Chapter and Fr. Irwin David Quintanilla López as substitute.

In the final part, on January 13, the recommendations made in this Assembly were approved and we closed it with the Eucharist presided over by Father Provincial Fr. Raúl Ruiz Mena. We entrust ourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and to our Quiché Martyrs. May we grow in number and in fidelity to the Lord that he called us to be witnesses of his love in the world.

| *Marvim Sotelo, MSC*
(Province of CA & Mexico)

CHAPTER AND ACCOMPANIMENT TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS PROVINCE



The MSC Superior General Fr Abzalón Alvarado Tovar MSC visited various parts of the Province and took the opportunity to experience the vast blue ocean countries in the Pacific, the people, and their unique cultures. It is a tradition for every Superior General to take a trip to visit different communities where MSC are working. He also had a chance to listen to and empower the lay members of the Chevalier Family and the MSC Parishioners.

The first week Fr. Absalon participated in the first Provincial Chapter in Suva, Fiji. Fr. Chris Chaplin and Fr. Paul Cashen were the Chapter Facilitators. Fr. Vito Kelekele was elected as the new provincial.

Then Fr. Absalon started accompanying different MSC communities in the Fiji area. After, he spent one week in Wallis and Futuna, one week in Samoa, and one week in Kiribati. Their unique welcoming ceremonies warmly hosted him.

In the last week Fr. Absalon presided at the Perpetual Vows Celebration of Br. Lotu Maotapule Tuloto (Samoa), Br. Kabuua Tanganibeia (Kiribati), and Br Mendhi Iva (Futuna).

It has been a meaningful time for our Province.

Robati, MSC
(Province of the Pacific Islands))

ACCOMPANIMENT

ASSEMBLY AND CHAPTER OF CURITIBA PROVINCE



Recently, from the 6th to the 10th of February, the Province of Curitiba, Brazil, held its Third Chapter Assembly in the retreat house Nossa Senhora do Amparo, in the Ukrainian Orthodox community Colônia Marcelino in São José dos Pinhais, Paraná. It was a time of meeting the confreres who were able to attend, 24 of whom were confreres with perpetual vows and temporary vows. In a very serene atmosphere, our assembly went according to plan. Humberto Henriques, member of the General Council, and Sr. Marian, of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, who helped us with some reflections before we moved on to practical matters and the decisions to be taken.

Humberto shared with us about the General Chapter. He gave a brief introduction to the themes of the General Chapter and then went into more detail. The process we are living is a change of epoch, as Pope Francis has reminded us. He reminds us that this process of change also makes us fragile, but we must use it as means to trace the future of our congregation, remembering the founder who invites us to see the obstacles as means. "A new heart for a new world". In this way we can make the synodal process that Pope Francis asks so much of us, who says that it is not only a meeting, but that it is intrinsic to the Church, where the Holy Spirit is the Protagonist, it is the Church's way of being.

We also brought to mind the theme of the General Chapter, which says: "Were not our hearts burning while we journeyed together" (Lk 24:32), with

the advice of Sister Marian,

Marian, was also a participant in our October assembly, and thus she was aware of the whole process that we were following and are living; she helped us with her reflections, bringing present the whole biblical text of the "Disciples of Emmaus", inviting us to be attentive to what Jesus does and says in setting out on the road with us, letting the Holy Spirit lead us and show us the decisions to be taken, always starting from the macro to the particular within the process of synodality. Sister Marian's counseling was very important because it helped us to trace out goals without the preoccupation of delivering or assuming works in predetermined times, but within a process that we are already living, with much serenity, patience, motivation and commitment to the whole congregation and consequently to the province, to take the necessary decisions, to give the appropriate directions and thus to continue our mission of making the Heart of Jesus more loved in the whole world, wherever we are.

Finally, we had an excellent Chapter Assembly, based on respect for one another, on the fraternity that we must live as confreres, in an atmosphere of peace, good humour, willingness, with the heart, as the motto of the General Chapter says, on fire, seeking and desiring the new that our mission requires and asks of us that we be committed.

*Robson Pires, MSC
(Province of Curitiba)*

ON THE WAY TO THE MSC GENERAL CHAPTER



"Did not our hearts burn within us, as we walked along together."

(Cfr. Luke 24:32)

In order to have a chapter that respects our Common Home, we will make sure that the chapter uses as little printed paper as possible. Everything will be available online, on our website, which is already up and running. All members can follow the work of the Chapter through our website:

<https://general-chapter.msc-chevalier.org/>



The Chapter will be preceded by some online meetings for all delegates. This is a way for us to familiarise ourselves with the process and the issues to be considered. Our first meeting will be May 30 and 31. If you are a chapter delegate, be sure to schedule it.

The preparatory commission for the Chapter met on 27 and 28 February in the General House in Rome. Besides Father General, Councillors and Secretary General, the Chapter coordinators, Fernando Clemente, MSC and Richard Suresh, MSC, as well as the Chapter facilitators, Br Joe McKee, FMS (Marist Brother) and Ms. Frances Heery were present.



The house in which we will celebrate our General Chapter is in Nemi (near Rome) and belongs to the Congregation of the Divine Word Missionaries. A curiosity: in this house the Conciliar Decree "Ad Gentes" was written, with the collaboration of three MSC: Bishop Afonso Ungarelli, Fr Jozef Van Kerckhoven, MSC (Father General at that time) and Fr. Josef Glazik, MSC.

Don't forget to pray for the Chapter! Use the prayer prepared especially for it in your community prayers. It strengthens our communion!



ACCOMPANIMENT

MSC INDIAN UNION RETREAT (PREPARATION FOR BECOMING A PROVINCE) & THE EXTRAORDINARY CHAPTER

“I encourage you to return to your first and only love. Keep your gaze fixed on the Heart of Jesus and learn from Him how to love with a truly human Heart, to care for the lost and wounded members of His flock, to work for justice and show solidarity with the weak and the poor”.(Pope Francis, to MSC 2017 General Chapter.)

decision making for the life and mission of MSC India. Last year in July we had our first retreat given by Chris on the theme “Chrism and Heart Spirituality in the light of the Province Process” and this year in January we had our second retreat on the theme “Mission in the light of the Province Process” and the



As we have started walking and working together to become an MSC Indian Province, we are filled with lots of emotions of joy, gratitude, hope and anxiety. Here I would like to share with you all, in a few words, what has been eventful in the Indian Union in the last month of January 2023. Firstly, our retreat and then followed by the Extra-ordinary Chapter which chose two delegates for the General Chapter in September 2023.

In this light we have been asked to prepare for a historic event of growing to be a Province in the next year or so. Fr. Chris Chaplin msc who has been a leader and a companion to MSC India on behalf of the General Team of our Congregation, has been animating us in this process of discernment and

third retreat later this year will be on the theme “Vision for the future in the light of becoming a Province”. In these last two retreats we have had a deep sense of coming together and praying for one another. Chris highlighted in his short sessions of reflections about the life of our Founder Fr. Chevalier and about our Heart Spirituality, finally how special Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was for Fr. Chevalier. He spoke about Fr. Jules Chevalier’s early life, his conversion after a fall from a cliff, had a great impact on his knowledge of God in the seminary where he was greatly influenced by Sulpician spirituality; how he was deeply convinced that the Heart of Christ is the healing place for the broken world. In the words of Fr. Chevalier, “Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a

whole world of Theology... It embraces everything: dogma and morals, the past, the present and future. This is why this devotion is essentially social, setting things right” Fr. *Chevalier “Le Sacre-Coeur de Jésus” 1900: page:280.*

The retreat had many graced moments in our prayer time, group sharing and the Eucharistic celebrations. It renewed our spiritual life as we had left all our pastoral works and set aside a week for this time of rest, reflection and renewal of body, mind and spirit. Fr. Chris taught us a wonderful method of discerning our life as MSC, what is called “Communal Wisdom”, or discernment process. We learn to listen deeply to God’s voice in each of the members of the community.

The two days of the Extra-ordinary Chapter was very meaningful and helped us reflect, reason, and revitalize our MSC charism and spirit. Darwin Thatheus msc, the Union Superior of MSC India enlightened us with a topic on MSC INDIAN HISTORY AND OUR MISSION IN INDIA AND OVERSEAS. It was indeed informative and encouraging to all members that there is a bright future waiting for MSC India, though as of now we may feel that we are like an adolescent community maturing to be leaders and ministers in the church in India and outside. The talk of Chris was an eye-opener for us: he made an emphasis on a call to make a journey inward, ‘I’ to ‘WE’. Our MSC members should have the experience of conversion from ego-centric to ‘Eco-centric’ life. He outlined a process that many of us might have heard in recent times in our retreats; Encounter - Intimacy - Conversion - Mission. He also spoke about the need for true leaders in the Congregation and for the church that suffers the crises of abuse of power, sexual scandals

and clericalism. He told us that the idea of our General Superior Fr. Abzalon msc, on preparing leadership in the Church is a synodal approach. He has restructured the model of leadership in our congregation: the change from General superior and Counsellors to General Leadership Team. Yes, only a Team can win any challenge set before it. In that light, during the Chapter the capitulants proposed many ideas for the Union Mission. One of them is founding mission communities in Ireland and Singapore, and also sending more missionaries to other MSC missions. We spent a lot of time reflecting, praying and listening to each other for inspiration of the Holy Spirit to grow in communion and brotherhood as we dream of becoming a Province that can be a vital part of our Congregation’s history.

*Anthony Prem Kumar, MSC
(Indian Union)*



14TH MSC PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



The 14th Provincial Chapter of MSC PNG Province convened at Coupe Conference Centre, Vunapope near Rabaul. The Chapter commenced on Saturday 4th February and concluded on Friday 10th February, 2023. There were 32 elected members who attended the Provincial Chapter, a representative of temporary vowed brothers, a scholasticate representative, and the rest were finally vowed members.

Fr. Roger Purcell MSC from the Australian MSC Province was the facilitator. It was a privilege to have Fr. Roger back, who willingly accepted the invitation and took time off from his busy schedule as director of MSC Mission Office to be with us. Fr. Roger was a missionary in PNG for more than 30 years and was well acquainted with some of the members. He made sure the Chapter process was orderly in its deliberations and discussions focused on important agendas that led to a statement made with recommendations approved by the Chapter assembly.

Unfortunately there was no representative from the MSC General Leadership team for the

Chapter. Fr. Andre Claessens was delegated to attend but that did not happen. Fr. John Willio, the Provincial Superior explained to the Chapter assembly that Fr. Andre's absence was attributed to late submission of key official documents needed to apply for PNG entry permit. It was also the first time for a representative of the General Council absent from PNG Provincial Chapter, something everyone realized we could do better not to repeat in the future.

The Chapter Theme was "A New Heart for a Synodal Church," particularly chosen by the Chapter preparatory team for each member and community to reflectively ponder on the reality of the province, at the same time, discern its life and mission focusing on Pope Francis' invitation for "a path of synodality" for the Church. In our case, the invitation is to discern as a province what God is saying to us, engage with the MSC congregation communally and being led by the Holy Spirit, to respond favourably to God' calling, and participate with the universal Church to carry out our mission according to what God expects from us. We realized

the heart of the synodal experience is more than just listening to one another. It is listening to God through listening to one another.

Several reports were presented to the Chapter assembly for review and recommendation for the next administration to implement among others; from the outgoing Provincial and members of the leadership team, provincial bursar, from the team that looked after initial formation, the scholasticate in De Boismenu College, Bomana, and from the team that oversees ongoing formation and academic studies. What has been one of our ongoing problems in the area of formation has been a continuous lack of formators in our formation houses. COVID 19 was the reason given for the slow down in opportunities for further training of formators. As a consequence, formators felt burned out and over worked.

A brief report was also presented regarding proposed Serra Foundation funded projects, particularly upgrade of De Boismenu College, Bomana from its deteriorating state, and Chevalier Retreat Centre, Kinigunan in Rabaul, Kimbe House and the proposal of establishing a new school in Ujana, Kavieng. De Boismenu College houses our MSC Scholasticate. The Scholasticate was built in the 1960s with occasional maintenance in the following years. After 60 years, the college is in a very sorry state and is recommended for immediate review and maintenance. Serra inheritance is supposed to fund the project. Work, as we were told, is still in the drafting stage with ongoing negotiations about project costs with one of the possible developers to construct the building. At the moment, it is uncertain whether we will pursue negotiation with the current company or not.

Chevalier Retreat Centre was demolished in 2020 for a number of reasons, (1) the buildings were old and contained a lot of dust from the volcanic ashes and was condemned as posing grave health

risk to retreat participants who use the facility, and (2) the administration assured the director Fr. George Tami that they endorsed the forwarding of a proposal for a new building to our MSC General Council and a request to the Serra Foundation executors to provide funding. Unfortunately, that did not eventuate and until now, the place has been left desolate. Still no work has been done on Kimbe House and Ujana school; the reason is the issue of land ownership. We hope the next administration will prioritize these projects with immediate effect as recommended by the Chapter.

Very little time was given to the pressing issue of safeguarding which is quite unfortunate. We hope the next administration will take this crucial area into serious consideration.

COVID 19 has forced us to operate within a framework of provincialism since the pandemic outbreak. The preparatory booklet for 2023 MSC General Chapter challenged us to shift from this model and espouse communal discernment with a renewed sense of congregationality. The province has been in isolation during the last few years, missing out on important meetings, dialogue and international MSC conferences. Group discussions tried to capture that spirit of listening to one another and opening up to each person's contribution, being aware that shared ideas and deliberations were not only means to arrive at a consensus, but to allow the Spirit of God lead us to discern wisely.

On Friday 10th February 2023, Fr. Sylvester Warwakai was elected as the new Provincial Superior of MSC PNG Province. Fr. John Willio will still be in office for the next two months. He finishes his term in April. We thank Fr. John Willio for his effort and contribution for the two terms he served as provincial superior. We wish him well and pray for his future ministry and appointment in the near future.

| *Sylvester Warwakai, MSC*
(Province of PNG)

MSC INDONESIA PROVINCIAL CHAPTER, 2023

MSC Indonesian Province held its 16th Chapter from 5 to 15 February 2023 in the Retreat House “*Panti Semadi*” Tomohon, North Celebes. There were fifty-four participants, priests, and brothers (2) and scholastics (2) coming from Districts, Formation Houses and even from abroad (France, Japan, and Cuba) who participated in this Chapter. The theme was “MSC Indonesia Province Responding to the Challenges of the New Age” and its sub-theme, “New Wine for New Age”. The

communal discernment, reflected on the *lineamenta*, materials prepared by the Chapter Committee. The results of the personal and communal discernment became the main basic materials for discernment and discussion during the Chapter for the development of the quality of life and mission as MSC. The *Instrumentum Laboris* of the Chapter had as its main topics: 1. New Era. 2. Identity as MSC Religious. 3. Mission and Service. 4. Formation. 5. Safeguarding Protocol for Minors and Vulnerable



inspiration was taken from the Gospel of Matthew 9: 17, “*People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.*” The theme was chosen being aware that we are living in rapidly changing currents of this age, marked by technological development, especially information and digital technology.

Before these days there had already been a Pre-chapter where every community in every district and formation house, through a personal and

Adults. 6. MSC Religious Governance. 7. Technology, Administration and Documentation. 8. Temporal Goods. 9. Participation and Partnership. Besides those topics there were also other specific topics that emerged from the process during the Chapter: 1. “*Kasih Mulia*” Foundation. 2. New Provincialate Building. 3. The use of handphone devices in Formation Community, 4. The issues about homosexuality in the Formation House, 5. Option for Merauke. 6. The possibility of creating a canonical community for the Kalimantan District.

The whole process led by Yong Ohoitumur

msc and Ignatius Welerubun msc went well according to what had been prepared by the Chapter Committee. It was really a moment of brotherhood encounter of listening, dialoguing, discerning, reflecting, discussing, evaluating and designing the life and the mission of the MSC Indonesian Province. The presence of the young generation as the majority of the capitulants gave a special atmosphere of enthusiasm, confidence, commitment and hope for the future of the life and mission of the Congregation. Although it was not perfect, the whole process and its methodology was done in line with the new way of holding Chapters or Conferences

government, and the mission based and imbued by the Spirituality of the Heart.

This Chapter was also the occasion to elect the Provincial, Vice Provincial, and the delegates for the next General Chapter. The election of the Provincial and Vice Provincial was done after having reflected and discussed all the topics of the Chapter and after a moment of discernment. By doing so, the capitulants were helped to elect those who could really lead the Province for the coming years according to the vision of the Chapter. The Chapter elected Samuel Maranresy as Provincial and Sani Saliwardaya as Vice Provincial.



proposed by the General Administration.

The Chapter made the participants as Missionaries of the Sacred Heart more aware of and helped deepen and grow the sense of mission and sense of being sent as missionaries, actualized in various ministries in order to respond to the needs of the Church and the society we serve. As MSC we are called to listen to the cries of the people we serve. For this mission the Chapter reflected and deepened the MSC religious identity, the leadership of

The process of the Chapter closed with the Mass presided by the Bishop of Manado, Mgr Rolly Untu MSC, in the parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, followed by the lunch prepared by the parishoners.

| Paulus Pitoy, MSC

CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF SPAIN



Last February the 23rd Provincial Chapter of the Spanish Province took place in Madrid, in the welcoming house of the Handmaids of Christ the King, and the first in which I have had the privilege of participating, serving as secretary.

The experience could not have been more enriching for me. I already knew most of my companions from before, either from my time as a student at the Colegio San Miguel in Barcelona, or from my time in the Community of Barcelona, or from my visits to the different houses of the Province during my holidays while I was in formation in the Irish Province, or from my brief experience in the community of Paraguay. Other people, on the other hand, I had only met occasionally at a meal or on a special occasion. Moacir Goulart, Provincial of the Province of Curitiba - with whom we have approved an interprovincial co-operation to strengthen the community and mission of Paraguay - and Fr. Humberto, in his double role of Delegate of the General Administration and Animator of the Chapter.

The "catholicity" of our Congregation, the diffusion of frontiers and the globalisation of problems were evident in the participants of this

Chapter: there were people of different ages (from 42 to 76+) and of different nationalities (2 people from Brazil, 1 from Nicaragua, 1 from Guatemala and the rest from Spain), each one with our own way of being and thinking, different among us, but with something very important in common: the same ideal, the same mission: To make the Sacred Heart of Jesus loved everywhere. Starting with us, with our communities.

In the special prayer prepared for the Chapter, we asked the Lord to grant us all, especially the capitulants: "a willingness to work for the good of the Province, generosity in our availability, a spirit of prayer and sincerity, docility to his inspirations and transparency in our exchanges". And all this was somehow reflected in all our sessions, which were full of work.

At Father Humberto's suggestion, and unlike on other occasions when the first thing to be done was to elect the Provincial Superior, we first discussed the situation and the reality of our Province following the system of community discernment that Father Humberto offered us, and then, in that spirit of discernment, to see which leader we needed to face this new stage, these new challenges.

After much reflection, Father Francisco Blanco, msc, was re-elected for a third term, and we thanked him for his generosity and vocation of service.

Beyond the topics discussed and the election of the new Provincial, I would like to highlight above all the fraternal atmosphere that pervaded the four days of the Chapter. At the shared table and Mass, in our recreational moments, in our conversations, in our work, in spite of our differences, not only of thought but also in some cases of age and nationality, I was able to see how we saw each other as brothers. We felt brotherhood and tenderness for each other. We were able to show vulnerability, and that vulnerability brought us closer to each other. Like the "Magi" after

the Epiphany, each of us returned on a different path, we also returned different, enriched by a week of fraternal love, which began, thanks to the Holy Spirit's sense of humour, on Valentine's Day....

From here I thank God for each and every one of my brother delegates with whom I shared these days, for the rest of the members of the Province and for the rest of the MSC brothers that God has put in my path to help me live this mission to which we all feel called: AMETUR UBIQUE TERRARUM. Happy Easter to all!

| *Jaime Rosique, MSC
(Province of Spain)*

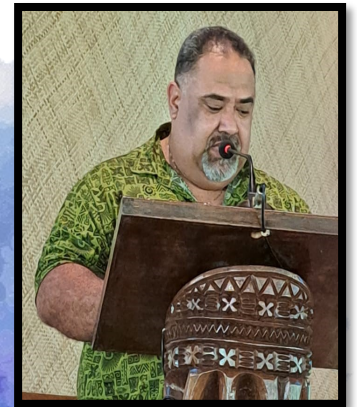
PROVINCIALS ELECTED OR REELECTED



EDWIN BORLASA
Province of the Philippines



LUIS CARLOS
Province of São Paulo



VITO KELEKELE
Province of the Pacific Islands



PACO BLANCO
Province of Spain



SAM MARANRESY
Province of Indonesia



SYLVESTER WARWAKAI
Province of PNG

JULES CHEVALIER

A man with a charisma

by: JOAQUIM HERRERA, MSC



1. A real fact

During the last few years, the meetings and encounters between the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and between the different branches of the Chevalier family have multiplied. The Conferences of America (CAMSC), APIA, UAF-Africa and Europe, with their various lines of action and commitment, as well as the Cor Novum courses, the meetings of the three Generalates, the joint activities with the Laity, the work of the FAB in the field of economic solidarity, the Conference of Formators, various assemblies and especially the General Conferences... have been and are concrete achievements that have been setting common guidelines for action and an international sense in our being MSC.

Those who have been lucky enough to participate in one or more of these meetings will undoubtedly remember that one of the words most used in them is the word Charism. It is generally used referring to the founding charism received through Fr. Jules Chevalier, but it is also used in various other senses.

2. A brief reflection

What does charism mean? Certainly, charism is not a thing. It is the action of the Holy Spirit who acts without ceasing in a free way and in multiple ways. Hence the great diversity of interpretations, divisions and subdivisions that are made of the charisms, most of them valid insofar as they manifest the multiform action of the Holy Spirit in carrying out the project of the Trinity on the cosmos, humanity, the Church and each human being.

Personally we must recognize that the primordial action of the Holy Spirit in us is the gift of faith: no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except with the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12,3). Faith is a free gift from

God; It is the action of the Holy Spirit that facilitates our personal experience with the God of revelation, manifested in Jesus Christ who is the visible image of the invisible God, before whom we must give a free, personal, conscious and total response that is manifested in the existential and integral option for him.

But who can encompass the breadth and the length, the height and the depth, and know the love of Christ that passes all knowledge? (Eph 3,18). For us to embrace here and now the fullness of the mystery of Jesus Christ is impossible. For this reason, in faith, the Holy Spirit, respecting our identity, temperament and characteristics, acts so that we have a peculiar vision of Jesus Christ manifested in the Gospel. Accepting the person of Jesus Christ with his double divine and human nature, the believer, moved by the Holy Spirit, focuses on one or various aspects of himself that he tries to convert into existential objectives in imitation of Christ: his love, his oblation, his poverty, his obedience, his detachment, his service,

3. Some traits of faith in Jules Chevalier

The founding charism of Jules Chevalier is the fruit of his process in the gift of faith, of his own path in opening to the action of the Holy Spirit and in his personal response, within his concern for the dehumanizing and de-Christianizing realities of his time, which he called 'the evils of time'.

To grasp the great intuition of our Founder, we must employ a little trick. All of his important

projects, those he has completed and those that circumstances did not allow him to carry out, must be read from right to left, that is, in a way that is contrary to what we are used to doing. Thus we discover that the axis of his action, of his projects, of his life and of his faith is the Sacred Heart.

The heart, which biblically is the deepest part of being, the source of life from which thoughts, feelings, will and desire emanate, of Jesus Christ, God incarnate concerned for human beings, expresses his concept of God.

In 1862 Jules Chevalier wrote: “the Heart of the divine Master is the center in which everything converges, both in the Old and in the New Testament; the axis on which all Catholicism revolves, the sun of the Church, the soul of our souls, the source of our mysteries, the origin of our sacraments, the guarantee of our reconciliation, the salvation of the world, the remedy for all our ills. This is how I understand the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It encompasses everything, responds to everything.”

A few years later, in 1887, he wrote: “devotion to the Sacred Heart is the essence of Christianity, and contains all other devotions. The Heart of Jesus is God, the love of God incarnate. God is love”. “The Heart of Jesus means the whole Jesus. It is the center of all the human and divine actions that constituted the very life of Jesus”.

Certainly the essence of God is love, since God is love (I Jn 4,8), and Jesus Christ is the maximum manifestation of God's love poured out on us and those who suffer (Cfr. I Jn 4,9-10). . This is the basic point of God's image of him.

To this image of God, Chevalier arrived through a concrete path driven by the Holy Spirit. In every human being who embarks on the adventure of faith, we find three stages:

1. God takes the initiative and through the action of the Holy Spirit seeks the human person to make him a participant in his own life.
2. After a long pilgrimage in her own search for God, she is gradually illuminated by the Holy Spirit until she finds the image of God that gives reason and meaning to her own existence and her commitment to

history.

3. A deepening of the found image begins with the relationship, dedication, love, commitment and hope which intensify in a process of growing identification with the Lord.

We all know the path taken by Jules from the image of God received in his family, probably with some interference from the Jansenism that invaded his native France, to the image of God received from the Sulpician Fathers in the diocesan seminary and from the French school of spirituality of his time, until reaching the discovery of the God who loves his own in an individual, concrete and eternal way, in the presentation of the doctrine of the Sacred Heart.

Through her, the Holy Spirit acted in Jules and he gave the comprehensive response that turned his life into the life of a man in love with the Heart of Christ, of a Christ who loves us with a human heart. But the action of the Spirit continued to deepen the discovered image of God and began to focus on some specific characteristics of the love of the Lord Jesus concerned for the little ones, the poor, those who live without meaning. What are these peculiarities?

The previous question seems unnecessary and even naive. Any MSC knows very well what are the peculiarities of the love of Christ that the Spirit made Jules see and that responded to his personal trajectory and the founding charism for which he was preparing



MAIN ARTICLE

him. In fact, they are constantly remembered, in all the meetings we talked about at the beginning and in various circumstances of our lives, when affirming that we must be a manifestation of the compassionate, tender and merciful love of God revealed in Christ. But if our contribution ends here, we have to say that we have impoverished and altered the MSC charism. Jules lived, spoke, wrote, insisted and gave us an example of other peculiarities of the love of Christ discovered in his heart: courage and strength, constancy and fidelity.

He wrote in his book on the Sacred Heart: “from the cradle to the cross, the strength and sweetness of Jesus appear in a very special way... As Missionaries of the Sacred Heart we must bear the seal that marked Jesus with the qualities of kindness and strength... The Heart of Jesus possesses all the virtues that we usually admire the most, such as courage, strength, perseverance, generosity”.

| This text is part of the third book (On the Journey) of the Collection for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the MSC, written by Father Joaquim Herrera, MSC.

welcome to the CHEVALIER YEAR

which will officially open on 15 March 2023, the 199th anniversary of Fr. Jules Chevalier's birth and will end on the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in May 2024. The grand celebration will be on 15 March 2024, the 200th birthday of Fr. Chevalier.

logo & theme of the chevalier year

We invite you to sit and pray with this logo and theme.

What does it say to you?

We thank the MSC provinces in Brazil who first proposed the theme and Sr. Helena (Nam, Yuri), MSC Sister from Korea who designed the logo. We also thank Joao Pedro from Brazil who also submitted logo designs.

about the logo

The Holy Spirit + Passion

- The Holy Spirit shaped by a dove and a flame.
- Our passion for the Spirituality of the Heart.

Bicentennial + The Pierced Sacred Heart

- The number 200 expressed by continuous line and the pierced Sacred Heart symbolize our motto and vision originating from the time of Chevalier to our time.
- MSC Charism at the center of that time.
- The red line and surface spreading at the bottom mean our mission.

Jules Chevalier, MSC

- His white hair and the red stars on it symbolize wisdom.

invitation from the commission

We encourage provinces, unions, regions and communities to have a special celebration in your places to mark the official opening of the Chevalier Year!

As we celebrate this special jubilee for our Chevalier family, may each one of us be touched by the Spirit, and, like Fr. Chevalier, will be gifted with a heart on fire for mission.

EVERYWHERE

COR VITAE

At the first meeting of the new Cor Vitae Formation Team composed now of, Sr Cecilia Yangmi Kim MSC, Fr Ben Alforque MSC and Sr Cathie Mwagioidi FDNsc on 7 February 2023, the issue of the Cor Vitae Formation Programme was discussed. We are happy to share the news with you.



1. The 2023 online Leadership Programme starts on May 6, every Saturday for two months, two hours per session. The May 27 session is moved to July 1. Speakers: if possible from all 3 congregations. People are invited to be present to attend the sessions.

2. The Formators' Programme will be held next year, 2024, as a live face-to-face course. We assume the risks of the weakening pandemic by following standard protocols. We propose a 9-month programme, to start on 6 February and end on 6 November 2024. Our expected number is 15 people. The location and cost of the venue are in process with the people involved. You will be informed as soon as possible. We kindly ask you to help us in our planning to give us the names or numbers of your members who wish to do this programme by 30 July 2023. The programme will only run if we have the numbers. The team is entirely dependent on the number of participants to run the programme.



All two programs are open to members of the 3 Congregations of the Chevalier Family. For more information, please contact:

COR VITAE FORMATION TEAM

Sr Cathy Mwagioidi fdnsc

E-mail: corvitae8415@gmail.com

Whatsapp: +63 920 816 9777

Safeguarding Office

In February 2023 three MSC enrolled in the Gregorian University Safeguarding Diploma. This is a most encouraging response to the decision of the 2021 General Conference

Resolution:

The 2021 General Conference asks the General Administration to ensure that those Provinces and Unions with a number of active religious, will have commenced to have a suitable MSC trained in each of disciplines of Safeguarding and Canon Law by the time of the next General Chapter?

The MSC enrolled in the Spanish Course is Oscar Cho Maquin from Central America. The two MSC enrolled in the online English Course are Joseph Paul Raj from India and Lopeti Manu for the Pacific Province. And a word of congratulation to the recent IADC Diploma graduate from the UAF, Didier Mbela.



MSC Safeguarding Policy and the 2023 MSC General Chapter

An initial draft of the MSC Safeguarding Policy were circulated to all Provinces and Unions for their consideration and advice in 2022. A revised copy of the Policy will be circulated prior to Easter 2023. And hopefully adopted at the General Chapter in September.

Indonesia

The Provincial Chapter in Indonesia has approved the Provinces Safeguarding Policy at their recent Chapter.

MSC INDIAN FORMANDI BIENNIAL GATHERING

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! (Ps 133:1)

I am indeed happy and glad to write a two days report cum experience on the MSC young seminarians Biennial Gathering which was held on 25th and 26th of Feb 2023. We had a two day gathering which was an initiative from the India Union. First and foremost, my deepest gratitude goes to God and to the people in charge who organized it. The two days seminar was a very meaningful and informative for the young seminarians in the Indian Union.

Altogether we had six sessions which were led by Fr. John Peter MSC, Fr. Joseph Paul Raj MSC and by Mrs. Beena.

On the first day we all gathered in the chapel for Communal Wisdom. The prayer service was led by Fr. John Peter MSC. Fr. John Peter greeted and welcomed us on behalf of the Union Superior and the Council. For our meditation and reflection, he gave us passage from the call of Jeremiah and asked us to meditatively read and share in the group. We all gathered together in the groups assigned to us for the sharing.

The first session was taken by Fr. Joseph Paul Raj msc on Safeguarding policies mainly focusing on POCSO i.e., Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012. John Lucas msc welcomed the gathering and invited the dignitaries and brothers from each community to light the lamp, with this Fr. Joseph Paul Raj msc took us into the first session. He explained each and every point in detail so as to know and understand the seriousness of the laws and how responsible we should be as ministers of the Church and as a person who holds

the responsibility of protecting the children. After a short tea break, we had the second session which was an interactive session on the same topic 'safeguarding'. Thus, the first two sessions were very much informative and were meaningful for us.

In the afternoon we had the third session by Fr. John Peter msc on Community Life. We had a fun-filled learning experience about community life. Fr. John Peter conducted two activities drawing a deep sense of community life and moral lessons for each one to learn. In the first activity we learnt how to come as a team and work together for the common mission and purpose where we understood each one's strengths and weaknesses and in the second activity we learnt how to be focused and not to imitate others and get distracted. Thus, these two activities made us understand what community life is and how it should be lived.

After the evening tea we gathered for the fourth session which was very much interactive on community life. The main points of this session were community prayer, community meal, community recreation, community meetings, community outings etc., all these topics enlightened and inspired us to live a good community life. Vinoth msc concluded the session by giving vote of thanks to John Peter msc.

At 5:20 pm we went for sports and had a shower. At 7:15 we participated in the Holy Eucharistic celebration which was presided by Fr. Joseph Paul Raj msc. After the spiritual nourishment we had the physical nourishment followed by recreation in the T.V hall. At the end of the first day, we were very happy and joyful.

On the second day of our gathering before the



dispersed for a tea break.

The second session started at 11:00 am and the second session on building self-esteem was learnt through activities and meditation. It was an experiential learning for our life on the topic self -esteem and how to be mindful as future Priests of this world? Thus, the day's sessions filled us with a lot of confidence and gave new hope for the future.

With this we came to the end of the two days programme and we left the place after having a sumptuous meal in the afternoon.

My Experience

MSC Young Seminarians Biannual Gathering for two days will be a memorable one in my life and I thank the Indian Union Superior, Fr. Darwin msc and the Council members for organizing such a wonderful and systematic two days gathering which was very much thought provoking and very much

sessions we attended the Sunday Mass in the parish along with the parishioners. The gospel reading was on the temptation of Jesus and the homily was how to overcome temptation and live a good life especially during this graceful season.

At 9:00 am we had the first session on 'Building Self -Esteem' by Dr. Beena. Fr. Tijo John msc introduced and welcomed her. First session was more informative and interactive based on the concept of self-esteem. The first session helped us to know how our life is going and where we stand and what are my strengths and weaknesses. At 10:30 we

inspiring for me. I also extend my gratitude to different community superiors and administrators for making necessary arrangements for the MSC formandi for their fruitful experience. This gathering also helped me to know my fellow formandi from different MSC formation communities and to share my joy with one another by spending meaningful time with them all those two days. Thus, I learnt and Experienced great joy and happiness during the gathering.

| *John Lucas, msc*
Scholasticate - Bangalore.



FIRST RELIGIOUS PROFESSION IN BRAZIL

On the day on which the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the day of Religious Consecrated Life, our Congregation welcomed the three new Brazilian Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who made their Religious Profession: Mateus (Curitiba Province), Tomás and Raislan (Rio de Janeiro Province). Let us pray for the vocation of these new missionaries!

PERPETUAL PROFESSION

On 21 February, three MSC of the Pacific Islands Province, namely Mendhi, Kabuua and Lotu, professed perpetual vows of obedience, poverty and chastity. The celebration was presided over by Fr. Abzalón Alvarado, MSC who was accompanying the Province on the occasion. The missioning took place at St. Agnes Parish in Suva-Fiji.



EUROPEAN FORMANDI

After the Provincial Chapter in Spain, Fr. Humberto Henriques, MSC (Responsible for Initial Formation), had the opportunity of visiting our European formands. At this moment, all those in formation from Europe are living in Valladolid and being accompanied by Fr. Javier Barrios, MSC (Province of Spain). There are 5 formands who are part of the Formation Community: Cuban-Swedish aspirant, Joelin Rodríguez Delgado; Colombian postulant, Deivis Darío Daza Noya and three Italian professed: Rosario Modica, msc, Gianluca Pitzolu, msc and Rosario Vitale, msc.



BUILDING A SAFEGUARDING MSC CULTURE IN UAF - FIRST STEPS

At the end of my Diploma in Safeguarding, I had designed a prevention plan against sexual abuse for the UAF in 9 steps. This should start with the internal awareness phase. A month later, I thank God for how far I have come. Indeed, I have already had the opportunity to conduct 3 conferences: the first last February with the confreres of the district of Congo gathered in assembly; the second with the confreres and teachers of our “Notre Dame du Sacré-Cœur”



school in Kinshasa; and today, despite the whims of the network, with the capitulants of the UAF gathered in Chapter in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Step by step, a dream can become a reality.

MORTUI

MSC deceased between Dec. 2022 and Feb. 2023

NAME	PROVINCE	DATE	PLACE OF HIS DEATH
Wolfgang Vogt	NORTH GERMANY	20.12.2022	NORTH GERMANY
Robert Timi	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	22.12.2022	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Antonius (Ton) Scheer	NETHERLANDS	27.12.2022	NETHERLANDS
Alois Escher	NORTH GERMANY	05.01.2023	NORTH GERMANY
Conrad Sénéchal	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	05.01.2023	CANADA
Anthony (Tony) Young	AUSTRALIA	08.01.2023	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Cornelius (Corry) Bekers	BELGIUM	12.01.2023	BELGIUM
Joseph Muller	USA	17.01.2023	USA
Henry Van Engelen	NETHERLANDS	02.02.2023	NETHERLANDS
Wilhelm Wöstheinrich	NORTH GERMANY	13.02.2023	NORTH GERMANY
Pierre-Alain Argouin	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	21.02.2023	CANADA

Approvals from Dec.2022 to Feb.2023



We affectionately affirm these brothers of ours mentioned below. We hope that their commitment will be without reserve to make the Heart of Jesus loved everywhere.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>APPROVAL</u>
DECEMBER 2022	MENDHI IVA	PACIFIC ISLANDS	PERPETUAL VOWS
DECEMBER 2022	LOTU FARANIKO TULOTO	PACIFIC ISLANDS	PERPETUAL VOWS
DECEMBER 2022	KABUUA TONGANIBEIA	PACIFIC ISLANDS	PERPETUAL VOWS
JANUARY 2023	EMANUEL ELISCLIBE DA SILVA	SÃO PAULO	PRIESTHOOD
JANUARY 2023	JOSEPH CHARLES CHERVIER	INDIAN UNION	DIACONATE
JANUARY 2023	KULANDAI ARUL RAJ	INDIAN UNION	DIACONATE
FEBRUARY 2023	RAÚL PÉREZ VALDÉZ	USA	PRIESTHOOD
FEBRUARY 2023	RICARDO PERDOMO ARÁMBULO	USA	PRIESTHOOD
FEBRUARY 2023	KENJI KONDA	USA	DIACONATE



The tri-generalate communities (MSC, FDNSC, and MSC Sisters) celebrated the 199th Birth Anniversary of our Founder, the Servant of God, Fr. Jules Chevalier through a Eucharistic Celebration. The celebration also opened the CHEVALIER YEAR: the 200th Burth Anniversary of Fr. Jules wich will end next year.



Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

I House: Via Asmara 11, 00199, Roma , Italy
E-mail: communications@msc-chevalier.org



English Correction:

Tony Arthur, MSC